RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

COVID-19 Definitions

This document is intended to clarify commonly confused COVID-19-related words and phrases. If you have questions about any information outlined in this document, please submit your question(s) to doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov.

"Close Contact" For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. However, **any duration** should be considered prolonged if the exposure occurred during performance of an aerosol generating procedure (such as cell extraction) or having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the person with confirmed COVID-19

Contact Tracing is the process of identifying individuals who may have come in contact with an infected person. For more information on contact tracing please visit the RIDOH Contact Tracing page: https://health.ri.gov/covid/contacttracing/

"Hot Spot" is the term used for locations where the COVID-19 positivity rate is 10% or greater. If you are planning to travel visit the RIDOH Travel page for more information: https://health.ri.gov/covid/travel/.

Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19, or people who are sick with COVID-19 symptoms, from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by designating a specific "sick room" or area and using a separate bathroom (if available). For more information on isolation, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html.

Quarantine is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. For more information on quarantining, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html.

Quarantine Start Date the day after the last close contact you had with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Quarantine End Date 14 days after the quarantine start date. The quarantine end date is not your return to work date.

Return-to-Work Date is the first day you are eligible to return to work after quarantine (usually the day after the Quarantine End Date – "Day 15"), if you have met all the testing requirements and have been cleared by your supervisor.

Social Distancing means keeping a safe space, at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Social distancing should be practiced in combination with other preventative measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, including wearing masks, avoiding touching your face, and **frequent handwashing.**

Surveillance Testing - or testing a population to find where there is disease - helps us find cases of COVID-19 early to prevent the spread of disease. Like nursing homes, we are a congregate-living setting; large numbers of people reside in our facilities in close quarters; therefore, finding COVID cases as quickly as possible can help us prevent widespread illness and keep us all safer.